



MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2018

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- We have a steady group of commercial wild fishermen picking on the flats. Grant activities are at full steam. Oysters are growing and much product is moving out of Wellfleet.
- There are at least seven boats dragging for oysters, quahogs and blood clams in the harbor, with a few more coming on line soon. This is more than double what we had last year.
- Recreational fishing has greatly increased and is now concentrated on Sundays and Wednesdays only on Indian Neck recreational area.
- We held a lottery for a deep-water grant that became available on Indian Neck. It was awarded to a young, long-time wild commercial shellfisherman, Justin Lynch.
- We set buoys in Chipman's Cove to delineate where grant holders could place Chinese hats to collect wild oyster spat. We made a suggestion to consider donating 10 percent of their collected seed to the town for its propagation efforts.
- For the first six months of 2018, we have sold 817 shellfishing permits = \$69,635.00. We are well ahead of last year's sales, as we are only about 200 permits and \$8,300 shy of our 2017 totals.

Enforcement

- Our part-time, seasonal worker, Drew Ryan, began on Wed., June 6. He is concentrating on the recreational area, with one day of propagation assistance and one assisting with commercial patrol. He has been doing a lot of education with rec fishermen, especially regarding oyster sizing and why they need to be three inches to harvest (allows them to spawn, ensuring future).
- We are implementing a brand new system of catch reporting for the recreational fishery. This is also allowing us to check total catch limits for the week and document education and enforcement actions.
- In the commercial fishery, we issued one warning and one ticket for failure to display catch. We worked with Mass. Environmental Police on both incidents.
- We executed one commercial confiscation of catch for a fisherman fishing in a closed area: Lt. Island South.
- The weather turned hot mid-month, and our vibrio inspections increased. We have issued verbal warnings to fishermen about exposure time, carrying more ice and shading their oysters during harvest. We are monitoring fishermen very closely.
- We have been working individually with dragger captains who are fishing for oysters to set up protocols for vibrio season. We have issued verbal warnings about illegal wet storage.
- Many complaints were received about boats fishing on grants at Indian Neck. Many of these grants were either not marked or buoys weren't marked well. We informed grant holders that we can't do anything if their grants are not appropriately marked, per our regulations.
- A big rack ball was buoyed off near the Lt. Island boathouse. Some of the gear had tags, so WSD called the grant holders and asked them to clean it up before July Fourth, which they did.

State and Town Relations

- We placed new grant and No Dog signage at landings around town.
- Constable Civetta took a USCG boating safety class and received a certificate.
- We conducted water quality sampling with the state biologist.

- We had many problems with our trucks, especially the old one. The drive shaft broke on it in the sand inside of the breakwater with an incoming tide. Johnny and Chris saved the day!
- We ordered a new truck.

Propagation

- We participated in the state-run contaminated quahog relay from the Taunton River. We collaborated with the DPW to pick them up, store them overnight and get them to the pier so we could load them on our boat. We distributed 202 bushels of mostly cherrystone sized quahogs in Chipman's Cove.
- We put up educational signage about this program at both landings at Chipman's Cove. These quahogs are disease-free, but are contaminated with fecal coliform. Since clams are filter feeders, they quickly purge themselves, but the state requires that we leave them for three months so the clams can spawn. We hope this will add good clam genetics and lots more baby quahogs to our marine environment. We will move some to the Indian Neck recreational area after September 16 when the state tests them to affirm that they are clean and healthy to eat.
- We planted 48,000 baby quahogs and 108,000 baby oysters on our propagation bed.
- We got the cultch barge running and got one and a half days in before it started to feel unseaworthy. We put it on the railway, but the fixes are temporary and great care must be taken on each trip. We can't use it in any kind of wind, and we must avoid wakes at all costs.
- We are grateful for the proactive collaboration of the DPW in getting the sea clam shell to the pier and loaded onto the barge for many trips each day. Cultching with sea clam shell provides the perfect habitat for baby oysters to settle on and grow, ensuring a future for the wild fishery.
- Our open bid for a new cultch barge closed, and one bid was received.

Education & Outreach

- Constable Civetta met with federal representatives from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to educate them about the importance of shellfishing to the town and our need for dredging the harbor.
- One commercial Shellfish Crier was distributed.

Also, Deputy Chris Manulla witnessed a great white shark attack and eat a seal 1,500 feet from shore in front of the Baker House between Powers Landing and Kellers Corner. We advised the Beach Dept.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable